

California State Journal of Medicine.

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Communications on subjects of interest to the profession are invited. The "Journal" is not responsible for the views advanced by correspondents. Address letters relating to the "Journal" to the publication office, 31 Post Street, San Francisco.

JUNE, 1903.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We presume the committee which advised, in its report, that editorials in the JOURNAL should refer only to scientific subjects gave this advice after proper consideration, and we hope that the Society adopted it in the same way. But for the Publication Committee the restriction looms up as a sort of specter in the way to bar passage. Who has the time, in this busy life, to work out papers on the historical and statistical sides of scientific subjects, the sides usually considered in editorial columns, unless there be a special task set and a remuneration offered? And even if the Publication Committee could or would present to the Society a series of such papers, who would read them, and what good could they do the Society? Would they win us one good member? The Committee believes that it will have to construe the term "scientific" in a somewhat liberal way, for there are many subjects, germane to the government and improvement of the Society, which the Committee finds readily at hand, and which it wishes to lay before the society for consideration by its members. There are not many easily managed purely scientific subjects, and there is no time for the management of the hard ones.

It must not be inferred that the Committee believes it has a mission, or is about to set on foot any special scheme; it has neither mission nor scheme; but it is very much in earnest about the successful management of the JOURNAL. It intends that a journal published by the Society shall be for the Society, and that it shall be quite alive all the time. It cannot do this if it is only permitted, or if it only permits itself, to refer editorially to purely scientific subjects. It must deal with subjects which it will classify under the heading of social science or Society science—that is, the science of upbuilding this Society in all possible ways, so that it can be of use and do

good in every conceivable manner. The Committee does not believe that the members will object to this interpretation of the instructions of the Society, but it asks that if the Committee's course is objectionable, those who object will state their grounds for objection, and it promises these its careful consideration. The Committee is aware that it was appointed to serve the Society, not to control it.

The State Society, by a vote of twenty-six to four, has recorded its approval of the present medical licensing law, and its disapproval of any attempt to modify it by placing the control of the Board of Examiners.

ers in any hands other than those of the medical profession. The attack upon the law was but poorly masked under the guise of an attack upon an individual member of the Board, and its failure is not regarded as the failure to defeat an objectionable individual, but as the last move of a most carefully laid plan to tear down somewhat from the protective wall placed about the public by the passage of the last medical practice act. Very few people were at any time deceived.

The necessity of medical supervision of the milk supply of cities as urged in the paper read by Dr. George H. Evans at the recent meeting of the State Society at Santa Barbara, and which will appear in full in the next issue of the JOURNAL, receives special and urgent emphasis at the present time, because of the appalling ravages of typhoid fever in the epidemic of that disease at Palo Alto. Such conditions will arise from time to time unless the medical profession awakens to the fact that it has a duty to perform, yet unfulfilled, to the public; a duty so imperative, that, unless undertaken and carried out, it will not be able to free its skirts of the charge of being accessory to criminal negligence. As a result of personal investigation the writer of this paper accumulated evidence to show that such epidemics are possible and probable at any time in this city. Bacterial counts of specimens of milk collected by him showed an average of over 223,000 germs to the cubic centimeter. An inspection of some of these dairies made an explanation of this pollution only too clear. No attempt is made to clean cows or milkers. The stables visited were, with one exception, foul, dark and ill-smelling. No medical inspection of the workmen on the farms was observed. The water supply in some instances was unprotected from the drainage of barns, houses and privies. Imagine the possible result in the event of a single case of typhoid fever occurring on such a farm, and remember that there is no inspection of the health of these workmen; that